

nor the operating and bonding requirements applicable to development of federally owned locatable minerals applies to the leasing or development of oil or gas in similar split-estate situations.

I believe that that there should be similar respect for the rights and interests of surface estate owners affected by development of oil and gas and that this should be done by providing clear and adequate standards and increasing the involvement of surface owners.

Accordingly, the bill requires the Interior Department to give surface owners advance notice of lease sales that would affect their lands and to notify them of subsequent events related to proposed or ongoing developments related to such leases.

In addition, the bill requires that anyone proposing to drill for federal minerals in a split-estate situation must first try to reach an agreement with the surface owner that spells out what will be done to minimize interference with the surface owner's use and enjoyment and to provide for reclamation of affected lands and compensation for any damages.

I am convinced that most energy companies want to avoid harming the surface owners, so I expect that it will usually be possible for them to reach such agreements. However, I recognize that this may not always be the case—and the bill includes two provisions that address this possibility: (1) if no agreement is reached within 90 days, the bill requires that the matter be referred to neutral arbitration; and (2) the bill provides that if even arbitration fails to resolve differences, the energy development can go forward, subject to Interior Department regulations that will balance the energy development with the interests of the surface owner or owners.

As I mentioned, these provisions are patterned on the current law dealing with development of federally-owned coal in split-estate situations. However, it is important to note one major difference—namely, while current law allows a surface owner to effectively veto development of coal resources, under the bill a surface owner ultimately could not block development of oil or gas underlying his or her lands. This difference reflects the fact that appropriate development of oil and natural gas is needed.

RECLAMATION REQUIREMENTS

The bill's third part (Titles III and IV) addresses reclamation of affected lands.

Title III would amend the Mineral Leasing Act by adding an explicit requirement that parties that produced oil or gas (including coalbed methane) under a federal lease must restore the affected land so it will be able to support the uses it could support before the energy development. Toward that end, this part of the bill requires development of reclamation plans and posting of reclamation bonds. In addition, so Congress can consider whether changes are needed, the bill requires the General Accounting Office to review how these requirements are being implemented and how well they are working.

And, finally, Title IV would require the Interior Department to—(1) establish, in cooperation with the Agriculture Department, a program for reclamation and closure of abandoned oil or gas wells located on lands managed by an Interior Department agency or the Forest Service or drilled for development of federal oil or gas in split-estate situations; and (2) establish, in consultation with the Energy

Department, a program to provide technical assistance to state and tribal governments that are working to correct environmental problems caused by abandoned wells on other lands. The bill would authorize annual appropriations of \$5 million in fiscal 2005 and 2006 for the federal program and annual appropriations of \$5 million in fiscal 2005, 2006, and 2007 for the program of assistance to the states and tribes.

Mr. Speaker, our country is overly dependent on fossil fuels, to the detriment of our environment, our national security, and our economy. We need to diversify our energy portfolio and increase the contributions of alternative energy sources. However, for the foreseeable future, petroleum and natural gas (including coalbed methane) will remain important parts of our energy portfolio—and I support their development in appropriate areas and in responsible ways. I believe this legislation can move us closer toward this goal by establishing some clear, reasonable rules that will provide greater assurance and certainty for all concerned, including the energy industry and the residents of Colorado, New Mexico, and other Western states. Here is a brief outline of its major provisions:

OUTLINE OF BILL

SECTION 1.—This section provides a short title ("Western Waters and Farm Lands Protection Act"), makes several findings about the need for the legislation, and states the bill's purpose, which is "to provide for the protection of water resources and surface estate owners in the development of oil and gas resources, including coalbed methane."

Title I.—This title deals with the protection of water resources. It includes three sections:

Section 101 amends current law to specify that an operator producing oil or gas under a federal lease must—(1) replace a water supply that is contaminated or interrupted by drilling operations; (2) comply with all applicable requirements of Federal and State law for discharge of water produced under the lease; and (3) develop a proposed water management plan before obtaining a lease.

Section 102 amends current law to make clear that extraction of water in connection with development of oil or gas (including coalbed methane) is subject to an appropriate permit and the requirement to minimize adverse effects on affected lands or waters.

Section 103 provides that nothing in the bill will—(1) affect any State's right or jurisdiction with respect to water; or (2) limit, alter, modify, or amend any interstate compact or judicial rulings that apportion water among and between different States.

Title II.—This title deals with the protection of surface owners. It includes four sections:

Section 201 provides definitions for several terms used in Title II.

Section 202 requires a party seeking to develop federal oil or gas in a split-estate situation to first seek to reach an agreement with the surface owner or owners that spells out how the energy development will be carried out, how the affected lands will be reclaimed, and that compensation will be made for damages. It provides that if no such agreement is reached within 90 days after the start of negotiations the matter will be referred to arbitration by a neutral party identified by the Interior Department.

Section 203 provides that if no agreement under section 202 is reached within 90 days after going to arbitration, the Interior Department can permit energy development to proceed under an approved plan of operations

and posting of an adequate bond. This section also requires the Interior Department to provide surface owners with an opportunity to comment on proposed plans of operations, participate in decisions regarding the amount of the bonds that will be required, and to participate in on-site inspections if the surface owners have reason to believe that plans of operations are not being followed. In addition, this section allows surface owners to petition the Interior Department for payments under bonds to compensate for damages and authorizes the Interior Department to release bonds after the energy development is completed and any damages have been compensated.

Section 204 requires the Interior Department to notify surface owners about lease sales and subsequent decisions involving federal oil or gas resources in their lands.

Title III.—This title amends current law to require parties producing oil or gas under a federal lease to restore affected lands and to post bonds to cover reclamation costs. It also requires the GAO to review Interior Department implementation of this part of the bill and to report to Congress about the results of that review and any recommendations for legislative or administrative changes that would improve matters.

Title IV.—This title deals with abandoned oil or gas wells. It includes three sections:

Section 401 defines the wells that would be covered by the title.

Section 402 requires the Interior Department, in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture, to establish a program for reclamation and closure of abandoned wells on federal lands or that were drilled for development of federally-owned minerals in split-estate situations. It authorizes appropriations of \$5 million in fiscal years 2005 and 2006.

Section 403 requires the Interior Department, in consultation with DOE, to establish a program to assist states and tribes to remedy environmental problems caused by abandoned oil or gas wells on non-federal and Indian lands. It authorizes appropriations of \$5 million in fiscal years 2006, 2007, and 2008.

TRIBUTE TO HOBBY'S DELICATESSEN AND RESTAURANT'S "OPERATION SALAMI DROP"

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, earlier today before returning to Washington, I had the privilege of participating in a remarkable and inspiring event organized by the owners of Hobby's Delicatessen and Restaurant, a proud Newark institution for the past ninety-five years. In a spirit of generosity and patriotism, Michael and Marc Brummer, co-owners of this family-owned and operated establishment, have organized a campaign known as "Operation Salami Drop" to provide a culinary piece of home to our troops in Iraq specifically the 42nd Infantry "Rainbow" Division based in Tikrit. Initially, Michael sent a care package of hard salami and black and white cookies to his former college roommate, Captain Michael Rothman, who is currently serving our country in Iraq. Upon hearing how well the package was received by Captain Rothman and his fellow soldiers, the Brummer brothers decided to send salami to the entire 42nd Infantry Division stating, "We had been looking for something we could do for our troops and this was a perfect fit."

Having patronized Hobby's for many years, I can attest to the fact that this show of community spirit is in keeping with the reputation of this wonderful institution that has served generations of New Jerseyans, New Yorkers and connoisseurs of the deli world. As a young executive at Prudential, I would converse with the older Mr. Brummer, who would engage his customers in lively conversation. When other businesses moved to the suburbs, Hobby's remained a part of our neighborhood, faithfully serving their loyal customers. The business has been owned by Samuel Brummer since 1962, and his sons joined him in the late 1980's. Sam's lovely wife Ronni handles accounts receivables, and his hard-working 94-year-old mother-in-law Helen still handles the bills.

The Newark community has rallied around our troops by participating in "Operation Salami Drop". For ten dollars, customers can buy a salami and deli mustard to send to a soldier in the 42nd. Customers also have a chance to write a note to the soldier receiving the package, adding a nice personal touch.

The Newark Branch of the United States Postal Service also became involved by providing boxes and assisting in the shipping process. "It doesn't matter how you feel about the war," Marc Brummer said. "This is a chance to show the troops that you care about them."

Today Hobby's hosted the "Departure Ceremony," shipping the first two tons of salamis to Iraq. Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in honoring Hobby's Delicatessen and expressing our gratitude for the contribution they have made to our troops overseas.

NATIONAL TEACHER DAY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my colleagues in honoring our most honorable profession—teaching. Today, we take time to pay tribute to teachers on National Teacher Day. I want to echo this year's theme which is, "Thank a teacher for making our public schools great."

Too many times, teachers are criticized as a result of the myriad, complexity of the modern educational system. But without the hard work and dedication of our nation's teachers, our children would be down a far worse course. Although teachers are responsible for the academic life of a student, they also significantly impact the personal lives of students in ways that stay with them forever. We all have a favorite teacher that made a difference in our lives.

The idea of National Teacher's Day began with an Arkansas teacher named Mattye Whyte Woodridge in 1944. Ms. Woodridge began exploring the need for a national day to honor teachers with political leaders and educators. In 1953, she wrote to Eleanor Roosevelt who convinced Congress to proclaim a National Teacher Day.

As we honor teachers on this special day, I would like to thank the more than 10,000 teachers in the Dallas Independent School District who so valiantly serve the students in

my district. We should also recognize the invaluable contributions of the National Education Association, American Federation of Teachers, and the Parent Teacher Association, of which I was a member and former president.

Today, let us not only commit to teachers in words but in our actions. We have the obligation and power to make their jobs easier. We could start by fully funding the No Child Left Behind Act, created not only to hold schools and teachers accountable but also the Congress. It is a dishonor to our teachers that this program is underfunded by \$27 billion.

Because, it makes no sense that they be held accountable without the resources they need to successfully implement their job.

This day is of particular significance, as I have long championed the need for more emphasis in science and math education, particularly for young children. I believe teachers help illustrate to students how they will become tomorrow's leaders in these fields that are important to our future. Showing students the importance and the value of the science and technology fields is a lifelong process.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating our nation's teachers on National Teacher Day.

HONORING DAVID W. SHANER

HON. STEVEN C. LATOURETTE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, today is National Teacher Day. It is a day for honoring teachers and recognizing the lasting contributions they make to our lives. This day acknowledges the fact that a great teacher can make a world of difference in any child's life. A great teacher may be the bridge between the mediocre and true excellence. Our society owes a debt of gratitude to those teachers who have helped us along the way.

In this spirit, I rise today to honor the life of an extraordinary teacher, David W. Shaner. On February 3, 2005, at the age of 83, Mr. Shaner died near his winter home in the Villages, Florida. Prior to his retirement, Mr. Shaner was a teacher at Riverside High School in Painesville, Ohio.

Mr. Shaner was born Sept. 18, 1921, in Cherry Tree, PA. Since his retirement in 1985, Mr. Shaner divided his time between his homes in Erie, PA, Painesville and the Villages, FL.

He served in the U.S. Army during World War II, in the China-Burma-India theatre, attaining the rank of Master Sergeant. He was an honors graduate of Lebanon Valley College.

As a teacher, Mr. Shaner demanded excellence, and most often received it. He had little patience for laziness or "can't do" attitudes. He also had a remarkable zeal for life. He was brilliant, lively, humorous, and loved the arts.

Mr. Shaner was very devoted to his family, his friends and his former students. He consistently encouraged his students to reach for greatness in order to realize their potential.

As recently as 1998, the community gathered in his honor in The David W. Shaner Auditorium at Riverside High School in Painesville Township. The event, The Living Legacy

Concert, included performances by former students who have distinguished themselves in the performing arts. Among them was renowned opera singer, Heidi Skok (Riverside Class of 1985), who encapsulated Mr. Shaner's influence on his students, "He instilled a sense of discipline that even today I use in my career . . . he always set the bar up higher and made you want to grab that bar, which is what helps you succeed."

During the last days of his life, he spoke by telephone to many of his former students and colleagues whose lives he continued to touch as both a friend and mentor. His discipline and selfless dedication to his students and his craft were legendary. He said it best himself, "I dedicated my life to teaching and play-directing and making students live the very best lives they can. One must be proud of oneself. Teachers need to set an example for students."

Mr. Shaner joined the faculty of Riverside High School in 1951, where he taught English, drama and theater. In his illustrious 34-year career, he produced 54 plays, including "Annie Get your Gun," "Seventeen," "The Man Who Came to Dinner," "Meet Me in St. Louis," "The Sound of Music," "Camelot," "The Miracle Worker," "Fiddler on the Roof," "The Diary of Anne Frank" and "Bye Bye Birdie."

David W. Shaner is more than worthy of receiving Congressional recognition today on National Teacher Day—a day fitting to honor America's classroom heroes. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this remarkable person, and I ask that all Americans thank a teacher today.

APRIL 27, 2005 REMARKS OF TURKISH PRIME MINISTER ERDOGAN

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD some remarks made on April 27th, 2005 by Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan in his address to the Turkish Parliament. Whatever side of the political spectrum you fall on, Prime Minister Erdogan's remarks are encouraging as he attempts to demonstrate Turkey's continued commitment to the betterment of Turkish-U.S. relations and its willingness to support resolution of the War on Terror including in Iraq, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and reconstruction of Afghanistan. I also commend to your attention a statement by the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the same day with regard to the Syrian withdrawal of its military forces from Lebanon.

Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan addressed the group of his party members represented in the Turkish Parliament on April 27, 2005. The following are excerpts from his remarks on Turkish-US relations, as picked up by the Turkish media:

Recently much has been said and written in press and before the public opinion about Turkish-US relations. As I was sad to observe, some of those were either not correct or highly exaggerated.

I should state foremost that relations with the United States continue to be one of the fundamental axes of our foreign policy.